The U.S. Embassy Dakar, Senegal
Security Message for U.S. Citizens – Reports of Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in Guinea
March 25, 2014

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar, Senegal alerts U.S. citizens residing in Senegal and Guinea Bissau that the Government of Guinea has confirmed the presence of the Ebola virus in the Nzérékoré (Guinee Forestiere) region of Guinea, mostly in the administrative district of Gueckedou and in the town of Macenta. To date there have been 80 reported cases in Guinea with 59 fatalities. No cases have been confirmed in Senegal and Guinea Bissau.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar strongly recommends that U.S. citizens avoid contact with individuals exhibiting the symptoms described below until further information becomes available.

Ebola is contracted through contact with blood and body fluids or contaminated articles. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola virus, though 8-10 days is most common.

A person suffering from Ebola can experience sudden onset of high fever with any of the following: vomiting, diarrhea, headache, vomiting blood, joint or muscle pains, bleeding through the body openings (eyes, nose, gums, ears, and anus) and reduced urine. Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and WHO have no current travel restrictions in place, it is prudent to avoid funerals at this time.   For more information on Ebola hemorrhagic fever, please visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola.

To obtain CDC travel notices, call the CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) from within the United States, or 1-404-639-3534 from overseas, or visit the CDC website at http://www.cdc.gov/travel. For more information on Ebola hemorrhagic fever, please visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola.

You can stay in touch and get Embassy updates by checking the U.S. Embassy Dakar website. You can also get global updates at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website where you can find the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warning, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information. Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on Facebook, or you can download our free Smart Traveler App, available through iTunes, and the Google Play store, to have travel information at your fingertips. If you don't have internet access, current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or, for callers from other countries, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

If you are going to live in or travel to Senegal or Guinea-Bissau, please take the time to tell us about your trip by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). If you enroll, we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements. It will also help your friends and family get in touch with you in an emergency. You should remember to keep all of your information in STEP up to date. It is important during enrollment or updating of information to include your current phone number and current email address where you can be reached in case of an emergency.

The U.S. Embassy in Dakar is located on Route des Almadies, Dakar, and is open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you have questions or concerns about safety or related issues, you are encouraged to contact the consular section at the Embassy by sending an email message to DakarACS@state.gov. For after-hours emergencies, please call Tel: +221-33-879-4444 and ask to speak to the duty officer.

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